

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-9 and 11 are presently active, Claims 1-7 and 10 are withdrawn from further consideration as directed to a non-elected invention, and Claims 8-9 and 11 are amended. No new matter is added.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 8-9 and 11 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 8-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 8-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kuwajima et al. (US 6,751,064).

Regarding the objection to Claims 8-9 and 11, Claims 8-9 and 11 are amended to address the informalities. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to Claims 8-9 and 11 is overcome.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 8-9 and 11, Claims 8-9 and 11 are amended to clarify the claimed subject matters. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 8-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome because, in Applicants' view, amended independent Claims 8 and 11 patentably distinguish over Kuwajima et al. as discussed below.

Claims 8 and 11 recite, *inter alia*, "a plurality of projections which bulge from said support arm and are in point contact with the bearing portion" and "elastic means provided on said support arm for imparting a biasing force in the direction toward said recording medium, said biasing force being generated by deforming said elastic member by said projections."² Since the projection bulges from the support arm, the top of projection is in point contact

¹ For example, see Specification at page 53, line 22 through page 54, line 23.

with the bearing portion. Thus, the pressure applied to the top of the projection is distributed or deconcentrated on the support arm through the projection. Therefore, a concentrated pressure is not applied to a localized area of the support arm, and deformation of the support arm can be reduced.²

Instead, Kuwajima et al. describes that the bosses (projections) 11a and 11b are bulged from the pivot pedestal 11, not from the support arm 2, and that the top of the bosses 11a and 11b are in point contact with the support arm 2 (Kuwajima et al. at column 9, lines 10-16 and Figs. 1-2). Therefore, the pressure applied to the projection is concentrated on a localized area of the support arm 2, with which the top of the projection contacts, and therefore, the support arm 12 may be easily damaged. Thus, the inventions recited in Claims 8 and 11 can obtain unexpected results relative to the invention disclosed in Kuwajima et al.

Thus, Kuwajima et al. fails to teach or suggest “a plurality of projections which bulge from said support arm and are in point contact with the bearing portion” and “elastic means provided on said support arm for imparting a biasing force in the direction toward said recording medium, said biasing force being generated by deforming said elastic member by said projections,” as recited in Claims 8 and 11.

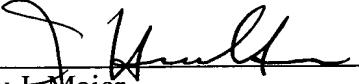
Accordingly, independent Claims 8 and 11 patentably distinguish over Kuwajima et al. Therefore, Claims 8 and 11 and the pending Claim 9 dependent from Claim 8 are believed to be allowable.

² See Specification, for example, at page 14, line 13 through page 15, line 14.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, it is believed that the outstanding rejection is overcome, and the application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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